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A CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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Part II Cultural Resources Management Summary

by
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Prepared Under Bureau of Land Management
Contract Nv950-RFP9-0009

Archeological-Environmental
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PART A
GENERAL SUMMARY

I. General Information

The Cultural Resource Management Summary is a brief synopsis of the Cultural Resource Overview and is Part 2 of "A Cultural Resource Evaluation of Clark County, Nevada" prepared for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management under Contract No. NV950-RFP9-0009 by the Archeological-Environmental Research Corporation of Salt Lake City.

The project is a Class I study of Clark County, Nevada (Stateline and Virgin Valley Planning Units) and includes the entire 5 million acres of the county regardless of land ownership. The purpose of the project is to supply information concerning the variety of prehistoric and historic human activities in the project area and to describe the physical evidence of these activities so that those cultural resources under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction may be properly managed.

Work on the project bagan in March of 1979 and consisted of three phases. The first phase involved a search of archives and libraries in the Salt Lake City area to determine the extent of locally available materials pertinent to the project. The second phase was the field research, during which libraries, archives and site record files in Nevada were combed for information. The third phase included the data assimilation and synthesis and the preparation of the three part report. The entire project was under the direction of F. R. Hauck, Principle Investigator.

Part A of the Cultural Resource Management Summary is a brief synopsis of the previous research, prehistory, ethnohistory and history of the project area. Part B is a summary of the recommendations for future research and cultural resource management recommendations.

II. Environment

Clark County is located in the southern portion of the Great Basin, a region characterized by generally north-south trending mountains separated by wide alluvial valleys with an interior drainage pattern. Exterior drainage by way of the Muddy River, Virgin River and Las Vegas Wash to the Colorado River is present in the eastern part of the county. The elevation varies between 450 feet along the Colorado River and over 11,900 feet in the Spring Mountains, but the major valleys are generally between 2,000 and 3,000 feet.

The climate of Clark County is highly variable because of the extreme elevation differentials. In general, the valleys are hot in the summer, warm in the winter and very arid, although the diurnal temperature range is quite broad. The aridity is the result of the rainshadow effect created by both the Sierra Nevada Range and the Spring Mountains. Most storm systems which do reach the area come from the southwest. Snowfall is rare below 4,000 feet, but common in the higher mountains.

Because of the large altutudinal variation, vegetation communities are diverse. The majority of the vegetation (approximately 80%) is a variety of desert scrub species such as mesquite, creosote brush, salt bush, and greasewood. At slightly higher elevations, communities of Joshua tree, yucca, blackbrush and sagebrush occur. The next highest plant community includes pinyon, juniper, sagebrush and various cacti. This Pinyon-Juniper community comprises about 15% of the land area of Clark County. Above the Pinyon-Juniper zone there exists a community made up of Mountain Mahogany, manzanita, serviceberry and scrub oak. At the highest elevations exist ponderosa pine, aspen, fir and bristlecone pine. This coniferous zone is limited to only 5% of the land area of Clark County.

The paleoenvironment of the southern Great Basin has been studied by several scholars. Although there are

small scale regional variations in climate, an overall pattern of temporal climatic change has been established. From about 36,000 Before Present (B.P.) to 7 or 8,000 B.P., the climate was cooler and more humid, allowing the existence of numerous shallow lakes. Vegetation zones were depressed between 500 and 1,500 meters. At about 7,000 B.P. the climate was becoming much warmer and considerably more arid. Between 7,000 B.P. and 4,000 B.P. the climate remained warm and arid and the plant communities became established much as they are today. After 4,000 B.P. temperatures became slightly cooler and a change in the periodicity of precipitation initiated changing erosional patterns, but neither of these factors had much effect on plant community locations.

III. Prehistory and Ethnohistory

Section III includes a summary of the cultural resource research which has been conducted in Clark County and is followed by a summary of the prehistory and ethnohistory of southern Nevada.

Cultural Resource Research:

The history of cultural resource research can be conveniently subdivided into three periods, the Exploration and Description Period (1826 to 1920), the Reservoir Salvage and Early Man Investigation Period (1920 to 1970) and the Contract Archeology Period (1970 to present).

The Exploration and Description Period (1826 to 1920) is characterized by vague and general reports of ruins, irrigation ditches, pottery, turquoise and salt mines and petroglyphs in southern Nevada. These phenomena were noted by various early explorers of the region and also by early Mormon settlers. Southern Nevada was also visited by several archeologists, A. V. Kidder, H. P. Mera and N. C. Nelson, in the early 1900's, but they did not conduct any significant research. Their visits to the area were limited to small scale reconnaissance and their findings were never published.

During the early years of the Reservoir Salvage and Early Man Investigation Period (1920-1970), most of the archeological research in Clark County was under the general supervision of Mark R. Harrington. Harrington initiated excavations of Puebloan sites in the Lost City vicinity under the sponsorship of the Heye Foundation of New York in 1924. Harrington changed his affiliation to the Southwest Museum of Los Angeles in 1926, and continued excavations in the Moapa and lower Virgin River valleys during the construction of Hoover Dam until Lake Mead had reached its highwater mark. Harrington also conducted an extensive excavation of Gypsum Cave, which has resulted in considerable controversy because of the apparent association of human artifacts and extinct ground sloth remains. Numerous articles concerning the

antiquity of human presence in the Americas resulted from the Gypsum Cave excavations.

A fortuitous discovery at Tule Springs accelerated the interest in early man investigations. Mr. Fenley Hunter, a geologist, was exploring the late Pleistocene fauna deposits at Tule Springs in 1933, and found an obsidian flake in association with extinct fauna. Later that year Harrington visited the site to excavate additional specimens.

Following the acceptance of the radiocarbon dating technique in 1950, Harrington and Ruth Simpson of the Southwest Museum sent a sample of charcoal from Tule Springs for analysis. The sample was too small, however, so Mr. Hunter was contacted and he contributed some charcoal from a different location. The two samples were combined and the resulting analysis revealed a date of 23,800 B.P., the earliest known human occupation date of the time.

In the late 1950's Richard Shutler began his work in southern Nevada. Shutler's initial excavation was at the Stuart Rockshelter in Meadow Valley. This excavation supplied the first radiocarbon dates for the late Archaic Pinto-Gypsum Phase. Shutler then directed his efforts to summarizing all of Harrington's excavation notes and artifact collections from the Moapa and Virgin River valleys. Although Harrington had published numerous short articles on these excavations, he never published a comprehensive summary. Shutler's work was published in 1961 and remains the single primary reference on the archeology of the Puebloan occupation period.

In 1962 and 1963 Shutler directed a large scale multidisciplinary investigation of the Tule Springs site under the sponsorship of the National Science Foundation and a private donor. In spite of the enormous amount of earth that was excavated, only nine artifacts, in addition to the two found by Harrington, were recovered. Radiocarbon dates from several hearths clustered between 13,000 and 10,000 B.P. Shutler conducted a detailed investigation of the exact

locations from which the Harrington and Hunter samples were recovered and concluded that only one of these was actually a hearth, which was dated at 12,400 B.P. The other location was actually a layer of carbonized plant material surrounding a small extinct spring without any associated artifacts. This location was also sampled by Shutler and dated to ca. 40,000 B.P. by the radiocarbon technique. Shutler therefore concluded that the 28,000 B.P. date from the mixed sample was invalid.

The Contract Archeology Period (1970 to present) marked a change in the research orientation of the archeologists working in southern Nevada. Previous archeological activity was biased towards those areas of the country where major sites were known to exist, whereas contract survey work eliminates this bias. Since contract archeological surveys have a different spatial bias, related to modern development activities, many areas of the county have been recently surveyed which otherwise would have been ignored. A large number of prehistoric temporary habitation and short term activity sites have been located, thus supplying data necessary for the settlement pattern and land use studies which have become a major research orientation of archeologists since 1970. Richard H. Brooks, of the Archeological Research Center, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, has been the principle investigator for the majority of the contract survey conducted in Clark County.

Prehistory of Clark County:

The prehistory of Clark County has been subdivided into nine phases, each of which is characterized by different diagnostic artifacts, settlement patterns and/or subsistence modes. A brief description of the characteristics of each phase is given below.

Tule Springs Phase (ca. 13,000 to 10,000 B.P.):

Very little is known about the Tule Springs Phase. All of the information for this time period is from the Tule

Springs site, where a series of hearths dated between 13,000 and 10,000 B.P. were excavated. Unfortunately, no diagnostic artifacts were recovered in association with these hearths. The occupation at Tule Springs during this phase may be related to the widespread occurrence of fluted points along the shorelines of extinct lakes to the north and west of Clark County, but no radiocarbon dates have been recovered from these sites in the Great Basin which would place the fluted points in the Tule Springs Phase. Tentatively, the Tule Springs Phase was characterized by lowland hunting of extinct megafauna and a lake shore oriented settlement pattern.

"San Dieguito" Phase (ca. 9,000 to 7,500 B.P.):

The "San Dieguito" Phase is also characterized by a lakeshore settlement pattern and presumably a megafauna hunting subsistence mode although no kill sites for either the Tule Springs or San Dieguito Phases have ever been found.

Evidence for the occupation of Clark County during the "San Dieguito" Phase is very limited. A few Lake Mohave and Silver Lake projectile points, the diagnostic artifacts for this phase, have been recovered during surface surveys in the Tule Springs area. The dates for the "San Dieguito" Phase are also based on limited data from a single site in California.

Hiatus (ca. 7,500 to 5,500 B.P.):

There may have been an hiatus in the prehistoric occupation of Clark County between approximately 7,500 B.P. and 5,500 B.P. No sites dating to this phase have been found in Clark County or any other part of the southwestern Great Basin. The apparent lack of occupation is probably due to a climatic warming and drying trend which occurred during this time period. Many local archeologists argue that the evidence of a continuous occupation through this period will yet be discovered through the excavation of sites containing stratified cultural remains.

Little Lake Pinto-Gypsum Phase (ca. 5,500 to 2,000 B.P.):

Following the possible two thousand year hiatus, Clark County was occupied by one or possibly two culture groups, one characterized by Little Lake Pinto and Humboldt projectile points and the other by Gypsum points. These projectile point types have been recovered from radiocarbon dated strata at three sites in Clark County, the Stuart Rockshelter, Corn Creek Dunes and Gypsum Cave, but have also been found at numerous other sites during survey activities. The Gypsum point type, originally thought to be quite old because of its apparent association with extinct ground sloth dung, has been assigned to the late Archaic time period on the basis of several recent radiocarbon dates developed on artifacts excavated by Harrington before the radiocarbon technique was invented.

The Little Lake Pinto-Gypsum Phase was characterized by a change in settlement pattern and subsistence mode possibly influenced by the dryer climate of the time. Sites of this phase are found all over Clark County in several different ecozones probably indicating a seasonally transhumant subsistence cycle utilizing a wider variety of natural resources than previous phases. Grinding equipment, normally associated with plant and seed processing, are also a significant part of the material culture.

The Little Lake Pinto-Gypsum Phase is represented at several different types of sites including rockshelters, temporary camps by springs, roasting pits and circular rock alignments (probably the remains of temporary huts).

Moapa Phase (ca. 2,000 to 1,450 B.P.):

The Moapa Phase is best known from the excavation of a series of pithouses, the earliest substantial architecture, in the Moapa and lower Virgin River Valleys. Associated with these pithouses were corner and side notch dart points similar to Basket Maker II point types found farther to the east along the Colorado River and its tributaries. The pithouses, dart points and lack of ceramics at these sites are the basis for the dating of the Moapa Phase. The assumption that this

Basket Maker II artifact assemblage is of a similar age as other Basket Maker II assemblages has not yet been verified by any radiocarbon dates.

The location of the Moapa Phase pithouses along the river floodplains probably indicates that the occupants were at least partly reliant on a horticultural subsistence mode, although the presence of temporary camps away from the major rivers imply that wild floods also were important.

Muddy River Phase (ca. 1,450 to 1,250 B.P.):

The Muddy River Phase, dated by assemblage analogy and ceramic cross dating to the Basket Maker III period, is a continuation of the development which began in the Moapa Phase. The main locus of settlement is again along the Moapa and lower Virgin River valleys where pithouses were built to take advantage of the flood plain lands. Several new developments, including the appearance of ceramics and small corner notch arrow points, dintinguish this phase from the Moapa Phase. These diagnostic artifacts have been found at temporary camps, rockshelters and roasting pits away from the main settlement areas indicating that wild plants and animals were probably utilized in addition to the horticultural products. Mining of local salt deposits began during the Muddy River Phase.

Lost City Phase (ca. 1,250 to 850 B.P.):

During the Lost City Phase, the population of the Moapa and lower Virgin River valleys rose dramatically. Over a hundred multi-dwelling sites, consisting of both pithouses and surface adobe structures, were constructed on the floodplains of these two valleys. Horticulture was evidently the main source of subsistence, but numerous temporary activity sites such as rockshelters, roasting pits and spring campsites indicate intensive utilization of other ecozones. The highest density of temporary site types is in the California Wash.

Along with the utilization of plant and animal resources, the mining of certain mineral resources was conducted. Deposits of salt and turquoise in the Moapa Valley were exploited heavily during the Lost City Phase as were a deposit of selenite crystals in Gypsum Cave. In addition to the local deposits, turquoise was quarried at several locations in eastern San Bernardino County, California. Additional evidence of contact with Californian aboriginal groups is present in the form of large numbers of sea shells of several different species, undoubtedly used as jewelry.

The Lost City Phase is considered to be contemporary with the Pueblo I and II periods of the Kayenta region on the basis of ceramic cross dating.

Mesa House Phase (ca. 850 to 800 B.P.):

The Mesa House Phase is the last phase during which horticulture was the main mode of subsistence. The settlement pattern and architecture were basically unchanged from the Lost City Phase, but the total population had decreased to where less than ten sites were occupied during this phase. The dramatic population decrease is generally attributed to a slight drying trend in combination with the appearance of the Southern Paiute.

The mesatop location of the villages, the orientation of dwellings within each village and the increased percentage of arrow points have all been interpreted as indications of a more defensive posture although no actual evidence of hostility has been found. Resource competition, especially for the wild foods, between the Mesa House groups and the Paiute may have been a source of tension. The disruption of sea shell trade and the scarcity of selenite crystals may have been due to competition over the use of those areas west of the Moapa Valley. Mining activity at the local salt and turquoise mines continued, however.

Protohistoric Phase (ca. 950 to 200 B.P.):

During the late Lost City Phase groups of Numic speaking Southern Paiute and Shoshoni began to move into Clark County from the west. Evidence of the Southern Paiute occupation covers most of Clark County, including the two valleys where the Puebloan settlements were located. Archeologically it is difficult to distinguish between the Shoshoni and Southern Paiute, however.

The Southern Paiute settlement pattern was similar to the Pinto-Gypsum Phase pattern, including the use of rockshelters, spring camps, roasting pits and small brush huts in a wider variety of ecozones than the Puebloan inhabitants. The Southern Paiute were seasonally transhumant and relied primarily on wild foods, although small scale horticulture was practiced in a few favorable areas. The Southern Paiute also manufactured a distinctive style of ceramics in small quantities. This ceramic type is one of the primary diagnostic features of Paiute prehistoric culture. The Southern Paiute lifeway remained essentially unchanged well into the 19th Century when the Euro-American mining activity in southern Nevada, and the associated influx of people, disrupted their subsistence mode.

The prehistory of the Shoshoni in Clark County is not well known because their settlement pattern, subsistence cycle and material culture were so similar to that of the Southern Paiute. Historical sources reveal that the Shoshoni occupied the northwestern corner of Clark County and were closely allied with Southern Paiute groups in that vicinity.

Yuman speaking groups were also present in Clark County prehistorically. Based on ethnohistoric accounts of the Mohave Indians, it is assumed that the early Yuman colonists were engaged in flood plain horticulture along the lower Colorado, probably as far north as the southern tip of Clark County. The prehistoric Yuman groups utilized Clark County in a similar manner as the Southern Paiute. Diagnostic Yuman ceramics have been found in excavated and surveyed sites

as far north as the Spring Mountains. The Yuman ceramics recovered from these sites were essentially unchanged from about 1,050 B.P. to 50 B.P., however, it is difficult to determine whether or not the Yuman utilization of Clark County was contemporary with the Puebloan occupation. Yuman ceramics are present in the Puebloan sites in small quantities, but are predominant only in the southern part of Clark County.

The Mohave Indians, the modern descendents of the prehistoric Yumans, were also flood plain horticulturalists who were also known for their extensive network of trade routes connecting the southern California coast to central Arizona. The Mohave are now located on two reservations, one of which is in southern Clark County.

IV. History

The history of Clark County spans a mere 200 years beginning around 1760 with the explorations of Francisco Garcés. Garcés led five expeditions through the southern Great Basin between 1760 and 1780 in a futile attempt to convert the Indians and establish a satisfactory route between New Mexico and southern California. There was no known exploration of the region until 1826 when the noted trapper, Jedediah Smith passed down the Virgin River and Colorado River to the Mohave settlement near present-day Needles, and then west to California. Three years later Peter Skene Ogden of the Hudson's Bay Company retraced Smith's route. In 1830 the Wolfskill-Yount party was the first group to travel from Santa Fe to the Los Angeles area along what was to become known as the Old Spanish Trail. The Spanish Trail was in active use between 1830 and 1848 by pack caravans although very little documentation of this trade is available with the exception of the report by John C. Fremont who traveled eastwards along the trail in 1844.

In the 1850's and 1860's the U. S. Government sponsored numerous surveys of the Great Basin in order to establish permanent wagon routes and later to determine the best route for the transcontinental railroad. One of the earliest roads surveyed during this time was the Mohave Trail which crossed the Colorado River at Fort Mohave.

The earliest settlement in Clark County was a missionary post and rest station established by the Mormons at Las Vegas in 1855. The missionaries reported a deposit of lead ore in the nearby mountains and additional men were sent down to exploit the ore. A series of disagreements between the missionaries and the miners resulted in the recall of both groups by 1857.

Several years later, in an attempt to maintain the economic independence of the Mormons, Brigham Young sent numerous parties of settlers to the Muddy River and Virgin

River valleys to grow low elevation crops such as cotton and sugar, which could not be grown at the higher elevations around Salt Lake City. In 1864 and 1865 several towns were founded, including St. Thomas, Overton and Logandale, but were abandoned by 1871 because of the heat, flooding and mosquitos. During the next decade numerous Mormon communities were founded, abandoned and resettled. Technological improvements in irrigation, soil conservation and mosquito abatement finally allowed permanent settlement.

Meanwhile, Octavius Gass had purchased the abandoned Mormon mission buildings and water rights at Las Vegas in 1865. Gass established the first ranching operation in Clark County and remained in control until he was forced to relinquish his property to a creditor in 1881. The ranch passed through several hands until it was bought by William Clark in 1903. Clark was in the process of constructing a railroad and intended to establish Las Vegas as a major way station. Clark subsequently auctioned off parcels of land for the proposed town to 3,000 prospective buyers. After the railroad was completed in 1905, ranches sprung up all around the Las Vegas area and following a concerted effort to drill artesian wells, farming became a profitable venture. Subsequently, farming and ranching operations were established in the Spring Mountains and along the Virgin and Muddy Rivers.

In the meantime, mining activity was flourishing in Clark County. In 1861 the Colorado Mining Company reopened the lead mine at Potosi Springs originally worked by the Mormons, but silver, rather than lead was the prime reason for their interest in the mine. A large number of mining districts in Clark County was exploited during the 1860's and later in the 1890's. Mining activity was very sporadic, however, mainly due to fluctuations in the price of silver. Other metallic minerals, such as gold, lead, copper and zinc, were also recovered from these mining districts. In recent years many non-metallic minerals have been exploited, primarily gypsum, dolomitic limestone and silica sand.

In conjunction with the development of the ranching and mining interests in Clark County came the establishment of a number of military installations. The first military post was Camp Colorado, later named Fort Mohave, which was established in 1859 at the Mohave Trail crossing of the Colorado. Additional forts were constructed to protect the immigrants, miners and settlers from Indian depredations, and to maintain American control on mining activities during the Civil War.

In the 1930's the economic base of Clark County was changed, first by the construction of Hoover Dam and then by the liberalization of the gambling laws. During the construction of Hoover Dam, Clark County underwent an influx of people both directly and indirectly connected with the construction. This influx was soon followed by an increase in tourism and recreation.

Simultaneously the legislation which controlled gambling in the State of Nevada was changed to allow an expansion of this form of recreation. Gambling and tourism are now the single largest source of revenue in Clark County.

PART B
RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Recommendations for Future Research

During the analysis and synthesis of the prehistoric data, it became apparent that there are a number of data gaps in the archeological record which deserve further investigation. These data gaps will be discussed in their prehistoric chronological order.

Evidence of human occupation in Clark County during both the Tule Springs Phase and the San Dieguito Phase is very limited, whereas in several areas of California and Nevada immediately adjacent to Clark County the evidence is abundant around the shores of extinct lakes. A Class II survey of one or more of the following dry lakes would help to resolve whether or not Clark County was heavily utilized during these two phases of prehistory: Hidden Valley, Dry Lake Valley, Eldorado Valley, Jean Lake, Roach Lake and Indian Springs Valley. The latter area would probably be most informative because its access has been restricted, thereby minimizing the affect of amateur collectors and vandals. In addition, the Lake Mohave, Silver Lake and fluted point types considered diagnostic of these two phases have never been satisfactorily dated anywhere in the Great Basin. As a result the San Dieguito Phase in particular is only very approximately dated.

A second data gap is the possible occupation hiatus between roughly 7,500 B.P. and 5,500 B.P. No sites dated to this period have been found. Although it is generally assumed that the hiatus was due to the arid climatic conditions existing during this time span, it is also known that the general climatic trend did not affect all areas in a similar manner. One approach to solving this problem would be to conduct excavations in rockshelters

which contained deposits spanning the hiatus and into the subsequent Pinto-Gypsum Phase. An analysis of pollen and flotation samples from both the cultural strata and the sterile Hiatus Phase strata would allow a correlation between environmental changes and human occupation. This approach would also help to establish an ecological explanation for the widespread reoccupation of the southern Great Basin which began about 5,500 B.P.

A third concern for future research is the widespread temporal and spatial occurrence of prehistoric roasting pits. Ethnographic sources indicate that similar features were used for the processing of agave or pinyon nuts, but little work has been done to confirm these probable functions for the prehistoric examples. A systematic program of flotation analysis of roasting pits would help to confirm or refute the presently accepted interpretation of these features. In addition, the roasting pits have generally been dated by means of associated diagnostic artifacts, and as a result, a large percentage are of unknown cultural affiliation. More roasting pits need to be dated by the radiocarbon technique.

A systematic sampling of roasting pits would enhance our understanding of the temporal changes in settlement patterns and seasonal land use. The flotation analyses would supply information concerning both the subsistence cycle while the radiocarbon dates would determine the relative degree of utilization of these features at different time periods.

The fourth recommendation for future research concerns the Basket Maker and Pueblo occupation of the Muddy and Virgin River valleys. The majority of the Basket Maker and Pueblo structures were excavated during the 1920's and 1930's, before the advent of either radiocarbon dating or flotation techniques. As a result, the dating of these structures has been limited to artifact cross-dating and the full range of subsistence activities has not been fully explored.

The dating of the Muddy River, Lost City and Mesa House Phases was based on the presence of Kayenta ceramic types and is fairly reliable. The Basket Maker II Moapa Phase, however, has been dated solely on the basis of corner and side notched dart points which resemble points found at Basket Maker II sites further east. In Utah, however similar point types have been found in archeological contexts dating as early as 8,000 B.P. The dating of the Moapa Phase sites is thus based on very equivocal evidence. In addition, very little evidence of plant utilization was recovered from the original Moapa Phase structures, so the economic basis for this phase is also uncertain. Since the transition from hunting and gathering to horticulture has recently been subjected to concerted theoretical evaluation, the excavation of additional Moapa Phase structures and associated middens would be of considerable interest to the archeological community.

II. Resource Management Recommendations

The management of cultural resources involves a multitude of factors, but before decisions can be made, one consideration must inevitably be confronted: site significance. In the past, only a few types of sites were considered significant enough to warrant investigation: habitation structures, stratified sites (generally rockshelters or caves) and kill sites. These sites were of value because the theoretical orientation of archeologists was directed towards the establishment of chronologies and the retrieval of material culture. The relatively recent trend towards the study of settlement patterns and subsistence from an ecological viewpoint has expanded the category of sites which are considered significant. This new theoretical orientation requires information from previously insignificant sites such as lithic scatters, temporary habitations and food processing sites.

It is apparent that site significance is intimately related to the theoretical orientation of the archeological community, and herein lies the problem confronting cultural resource managers: the prediction of future research orientations and their associated data requirements. The general response to this quandary has been to advocate the preservation of all cultural resource sites whenever possible. This strategy is probably the best solution to the problem.

Total preservation of all cultural resource sites is neither possible nor laudable, however. A certain percentage will be lost to industrial and commercial development and other sites altered due to archeological investigation. The main goal of the cultural resource manager is not to minimize but rather to optimize the loss of cultural resource sites by controlling the losses which do occur. The mitigation of cultural resource sites during industrial development can supply significant archeological data if the mitigation is conducted as part of an overall

research plan for an area. Aspects of the research plan which are not addressed by industrial development mitigation can be purposefully approached by additional investigation sponsored by government or other funds. In this manner available funds can be utilized in the most effective manner.

It is imperative that responsible institutions and organizations be allowed to conduct excavation programs. One of the main purposes for cultural resource management is to preserve resources for the future when archeological data recovery and interpretation techniques have improved. However, techniques will improve only if there is continuity in archeological research.

The cultural resource manager, when faced with either a mitigative or investigative excavation, must make decisions concerning the specific form of excavation approach to be undertaken. A range of options, from limited test trenching at one end, to complete excavation at the other, must be considered. Test trenching does not destroy the entire site, but supplies limited data. A trench through a series of strata will not provide sufficient information concerning the function of the site at any particular occupation level. Since the function of a site must be understood in order to generate data for settlement pattern studies, complete horizontal excavating by cultural strata is necessary in these instances. The decision concerning which of these alternatives or combination thereof is to be conducted should depend on the explicitly stated goals of the excavator in order to best match the information objective with the data gathering technique.

In order to facilitate management decisions concerning the cultural resources of Clark County, specific cultural resource site type will be discussed separately.

Habitation Structures:

Because the majority of Basket Maker and Pueblo structures have been submerged beneath Lake Mead, the

management of this class of cultural resource sites is critical. There are several important research questions pertaining to these sites which need to be answered, however. The most important of these questions is the determination of the age and subsistence base of the Moapa Phase occupation which can only be resolved through excavation. The development of a research plan to investigate the Moapa Phase sites should be based on the established literature concerning the transition from a hunting-gathering adaptation to a horticultural adoptation.

In addition, the Basket Maker and Pueblo structures have considerable value as tourist attractions.

Rockshelters:

Rockshelters have little value from a public interest viewpoint, but are of considerable interest archeologically because of their potential for stratigraphic accumulations over long time spans. Test trenching of rockshelters deposits can supply data for the determination of cultural chronologies, temporal variation in subsistence modes and paleoenvironments. The complete excavation of rockshelters permits a functional interpretation of individual occupation strata which is an important source of data for settlement pattern and subsistence cycle studies. However, since rockshelters are limited in number, their exploitation should be carefully controlled by an adequate area wide research design.

Lithic Scatters:

Lithic scatters are typically the most common class of sites and therefore their preservation is somewhat less critical than other site types. Lithic scatters associated with springs have the potential for stratigraphic accumulations and should therefore be managed in the same manner as rockshelters. Other lithic scatters have less potential for depth and are thus more expendable.

The mitigation of lithic scatters, through detailed lithic analysis, can supply information concerning subsistence activities which can be integrated into more generalized settlement pattern studies. Even the mitigation of small surface lithic scatters, probably the result of a single use event, can supply significant quantities of data. A recent study conducted in eastern Utah by AERC, has shown that even "surface" lithic scatters can contain diagnostic artifacts not visible during a surface examination.

Rock Circles:

Since rock circles are generally considered to be the remnants of small temporary habitations, an analysis of their location in relation to various environmental and topographic factors is an invaluable source of information for settlement pattern studies. Since little excavation has been conducted on the rock circle sites, an understanding of the function of these features is limited. George Frison's excavation of several Shoshonean huts in Wyoming revealed significant subsistence related information and could be used as a basis for a research design to investigate these features in Clark County.

Roasting Pits:

Roasting pits are a common prehistoric Southwestern site type which have received little attention, but are of great value as data sources for settlement pattern and subsistence cycle studies. Unlike most other site types, the required data (small quantities of flotation and radiocarbon materials) can be acquired from roasting pits without significantly altering the future information potential of the sites.

Rock Art:

Although considerable effort has been expended in order to date and interpret the various rock art manifestations

of Clark County, most conclusions have been less than confident. One of the most successful studies showed a tentative correlation between rock art locations and high potential hunting areas and in this context, rock art can contribute information to settlement pattern and subsistence cycle studies. The most important value of rock art sites at the present relates to tourist interest.

Historic Sites:

Historic sites are also of considerable interest to local inhabitants and tourists. As a result, historic sites are being subjected to an accelerated rate of deterioration through vandalism. Because the history of Clark County spans a relatively brief period, most historical sites are well documented and therefore little research is necessary. The management of historic sites should entail a monitoring program to determine land ownership, rates of deterioration and site specific recommendations for preservation and stabilization.

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